

## The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFAN.

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## Is Our Treaty With China in Peril?

It has hitherto been taken for granted that we would remain impassive spectators if the threatened war between Japan and Russia should take place. The assumption has been based on the belief that we should have no reason for siding with either combatant, inasmuch as our national interest in the Far East is limited to the acquisition of commercial privileges. In Japan we already possess all the rights of a "most favored nation," and, by the treaty ratified the other day by the Senate, we supposed that we had secured the concessions needed for the development of our trade with the Middle Kingdom.

That treaty not only opens to us two additional ports, namely, Mukden and Antung, both of which are situated in Manchuria, but binds the Pekin Government to carry out an extensive plan of fiscal reform which will level the existing barriers to traffic with the interior. China agreed to abolish the *likin*, or inland transit dues, which augment so materially the customs duties payable at ports of entry as to constitute an insuperable obstacle to the transportation of merchandise to a remote inland province like Szechuen. The Chinese promised by the treaty that for the *likin* should be substituted a surtax of 7½ per cent. *ad valorem*, which should be paid at the port of entry in addition to the regular customs duty. Thus, by a single moderate payment, the importer of American goods would be able to deliver them at any point in the Middle Kingdom, no matter how distant from the coast.

This convention, the importance of which to our commercial interests is obvious, was not to become operative until after an interchange of ratifications; and it now appears that the Pekin authorities are indisposed to ratify the treaty. This change of attitude is attributed either directly through her Minister at Pekin, or indirectly through representatives of France or Germany. Should it be proved to the satisfaction of our State Department that Russia, after breaking the promise given to us in writing that she would begin the evacuation of Manchuria on Oct. 8 of the current year, is trying to prevent us from obtaining concessions of vital moment to our trade with the Far East, we should have to ask ourselves very seriously whether our national interests would permit us to remain neutral in the event of a contest between Russia and Japan.

It should be remembered that throughout the negotiations that bore fruit in our commercial treaty with China, and throughout our attempts to bring about a speedy evacuation of Manchuria, the Japanese have been our consistent and zealous coadjutors. Their influence at Pekin, which is second only to that of Russia, has been cast uniformly on our side. Nothing in the future is more certain than that, if in the conflict which many believe to be at hand Japan should be victorious, not only would our merchandise have free and immediate access to all parts of Manchuria, but our commercial treaty with China would be forthwith ratified, and the abolition of the *likin* would throw open the whole of the last-named country. On the other hand, it is most improbable that, should Russia prove the victor, the obstruction she already offers to our trade with the Middle Kingdom would be relaxed instead of being aggravated.

We have no intention of renouncing the commercial privileges embodied in the Chinese treaty, and when common sense in other quarters recognizes that fact we shall hear no more of underhand opposition to our reasonable demand for a prompt ratification of China's agreement with this country.

## New Men.

In a sort of interstate survey of sundry Democratic Presidential and Vice-Presidential possibilities our neighbor the *Times* brings into the limelight of celebrity some heretofore unrecognized statesmen.

There is, for instance, "Governor CHARLES BRANLEY of North Carolina," who is thus described: "If the Democratic party should decide to take its candidate for the Presidency next year from a Southern Democratic State, the party in North Carolina would unanimously present the name of Governor CHARLES BRANLEY."

In Iowa there is MARTIN J. WADE, whose political career has been brief, for he is referred to as "entering politics in 1902," when he defeated WILLIAM HUFFMAN, the Republican nominee in the Second district, by a majority of about 1,000.

Colorado, too, has a candidate, for "if the convention in its wisdom should conclude that it was advisable to have a man from the Rocky Mountain section, the belief of the Colorado Democrats is that no better selection could be made than CHARLES J. HUGHES."

Louisiana presents to notice "JOHN H. KIRBY, the Texas lumber king," on the ground that the South should have its industries represented on the national ticket.

Oregon has GEORGE EARLE CHAMBERLAIN, "who comes from a long line of capable, scholarly and influential ancestors."

Arkansas has Judge U. M. ROSE, of

whom it is reported that he "recently celebrated his golden wedding."

Idaho offers Senator FRED T. DUBOIS, and Illinois BENJAMIN F. CALDWELL, JAMES H. ECKLES, ELMORE HEARST and JAMES R. WILLIAMS, the latter a fast favorite, who will be "voted for by the delegates from that State."

Montana, which is unreasonably represented as claiming the nomination for the Presidency, has only one eligible, and the *Times* reports that "if Senator CLARK declined to permit the use of his name for the Presidency, the Montana Democrats would be all at sea."

The Democratic national committee, when it meets in Washington on Jan. 12 to fix the time for holding the Democratic national convention, might do well to take care lest some one of these candidates be nominated for the Presidency by popular demand before the formalities for the holding of the convention can be arranged.

## The New York Tenement House.

The first report of the Tenement House Department, recently submitted to the Mayor, deals with a wide range of subjects never before treated comprehensively in any public document issued by the city. It is now in the hands of the printer and will be published in two volumes about the middle of next month. The department has been in existence since Jan. 1, 1902. It was created by the revised City Charter adopted by the Legislature in the preceding year. The revised Charter, for the first time, united under one responsibility the duties in respect to the enforcement of the tenement house law formerly distributed among the Health, Fire, Police and Building departments. The new department was also entrusted with the administration of various other laws and ordinances affecting the tenement population and received the more important of the functions that had belonged to the old Bureau of Municipal Statistics.

To avoid possible conflict of authority, the Building Department was reduced to a bureau under the jurisdiction of the Tenement House Commissioner. The new Tenement House Department was charged with the administration not only of the tenement house law, but of all laws relating to the construction and alteration of buildings of whatever kind. It was empowered to make sanitary inspections in tenements, to keep fire-escapes free of incumbrances, to suppress prostitution in tenements, and to keep a record of deaths, of sickness and of arrests among the tenement population. Owners of tenements were required to register their names with the department, to which weekly statements were also to be submitted by the police and by all dispensaries, hospitals and charities in the city. The statistical work was deemed of so great importance that a special bureau was provided to carry it on, the department being divided into a building bureau, an inspection bureau and a bureau of records.

The aim in creating the department was, on the one hand, to furnish an effective means of enforcing the laws designed to secure wholesome housing conditions in tenements, and on the other, to collect material that would tend to disclose the influence of housing environments on the health, the morals and the economic welfare of the tenement population. Until the forthcoming report is published information concerning what may be called the social effects of recent housing reform must remain limited and fragmentary. The economic effect, in so far as it relates to the production of housing and the movement of rents, may, however, be studied from fairly complete data already in the possession of the public.

The present tenement house law went into effect in April, 1901, nine months before the Tenement House Department was created. Its chief points of difference from the preceding law were that it reduced the maximum height of non-fireproof tenements thereafter erected from eight stories to six; that it provided for at least one window giving on a street, a yard, or an open court in every living room; that it completely separated all living apartments from the basement, the halls and interior shafts by fireproof construction, including self-closing fireproof doors; that it provided for a separate water closet in each apartment; that it made landlords responsible for the cleanliness of their premises; that it made them liable for failure to dispossess prostitutes, and that it compelled owners to register with the department, so that a prompt compliance with the law might be enforced. The new law abolished the typical dumbbell tenement containing dark interior rooms and called for important structural changes in old houses with a view to letting in light and air.

In ordinary language, a tenement is a multiple dwelling which has neither passenger elevator service nor separate toilets and baths in each apartment, a flat has separate toilets and baths, but no elevator service, and an apartment house combines all these conveniences. The tenement house law makes no distinction between apartment, flat and tenement houses. They are all tenements in the language of the law and fall under the same provisions in regard to construction. The new law made it obligatory to have a toilet in each apartment. As space has to be set aside for this purpose anyway, builders have found that the extra cost of putting in flats is inconsiderable. Few houses, consequently, are erected now without private baths. The tenement proper has been practically abolished, leaving two grades of multiple dwellings, the flat and the apartment house. The latter was especially affected by a provision in the new law relating to fireproof construction. Previously fireproof apartment houses could be erected to a height of 150 feet on streets more than 70 feet wide, and to a height of 125 feet on streets of less than that width. Under the present law the height of no apartment house may exceed by more than one-half the width of the street upon which it stands. Thus, the maximum elevation permitted on the ordinary 60-foot street is 90 feet, as against 125 formerly.

The new law, it will be seen, made a substantial reduction in the amount of

rentable dwelling space obtainable on a given area of land. The inevitable result was to discourage building until the average rent in legal tenements rose to a point where the new houses began to yield the speculative builder his customary profits, the selling value of new buildings depending, of course, on their rental income. The decline of building operations under the new law was very marked. The total estimated cost of the apartments, flats and tenements for which plans were filed in Manhattan in 1899 was \$52,305,000, in 1900 \$22,831,000, and in 1901 \$30,820,000. The annual average from 1895 to 1901, inclusive, was \$29,512,000. In 1902, the year after the new law went into effect the amount was only \$15,252,000.

The influence of the law on rents was profound and far reaching. Capital employed in the building industry was largely turned aside from tenement construction to enterprises possible under the building code to the erection of apartment hotels, expensive private dwellings and business buildings. Owing to the change in the direction of employment of speculative capital, rents rose generally in apartments, flats and tenements and fell quite as generally in apartment hotels and expensive private residences. Rents in middle grade dwellings, which have virtually ceased to be built since apartments were introduced on a large scale, went up as competition from the latter diminished. The contraction in the building of legal tenements took place at a time when money was plentiful and the cost of building materials and labor was less than it is now. At the present time, rents having risen, the production of legal tenements is increasing in the face of dear money and excessive cost of construction. The plans filed in Manhattan during the past eleven months call for an estimated expenditure of \$24,276,000, as against \$15,252,000 during the whole of 1902. The figure for these eleven months includes a certain proportion of plans that will not be built from, and is probably above rather than below what the revised total for the whole year will be.

## Why Amend the Medal of Honor?

This is a very singular bill. It is forwarded from the War Department to Congress with the strong recommendation that it be inserted in the *Sundry Civil bill*.

"That the President of the United States be, and is hereby authorized to cause 3,000 'medals of honor' to be prepared with suitable emblems and devices on the same of improved design, as heretofore issued, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of Congress, to such officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, or to those who formerly served as such, as have most distinguished themselves by their gallantry in action and other soldierlike qualities, and also to replace by such medals those that have already been issued under the joint resolution of Congress approved July 12, 1862, and Section 6 of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1863, and the sum of \$12,000, or so much of thereof as is necessary, is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of the same."

The peculiarity of the measure is in the four words italicized. Here is apparently a proposition to issue new four-dollar medals of honor, for gallantry in action and other soldierlike qualities, and to replace with the same the medals of honor already issued for gallantry in action alone.

For the new medals of honor the holders of the same will be expected, as it appears, to exchange their old medals of honor, issued to them under the authorization of the Act of March 3, 1863, which provided for medals for heroes thus described:

"Such officers, non-commissioned officers and privates as have most distinguished or who may hereafter most distinguish themselves in action."

The measure now strongly recommended by the War Department adds the words "and other soldierlike qualities" to the previous requirement of distinguished gallantry "in action."

Would the effect be to legalize and render legitimate a new medal of honor for Gen. LEONARD WOOD in place of that bestowed upon him in 1898, not for distinguished gallantry "in action," but for "other soldierlike qualities" exhibited by him in the Geronimo campaign at a time when, in the language of Secretary ALGER's order awarding the medal, he was "constantly expecting an encounter" which did not occur?

## Maine Farmers and Game Laws.

The mighty hunters who pay for a sportsman's license to hunt the deer among the Dirigos are limited in their execution by the law and by their excitement under fire. The hunters are many, but the hunted thrive. The town of China is only twenty miles northeast of JOE MANLEY'S capital, yet a China farmer, SANFORD CLARK, told the Pine Cone Union Grange the other day that of 600 apple trees set out by his son two years ago, the deer had spoiled forty-eight and hurt a lot of others. They eat off the tops, break the branches, chew the bark. Mr. CLARK complained to the Game Commissioner, who offered him \$10, which was refused. Trees not being a growing crop, there is no legal compensation for the destruction of them by deer. The Commissioner playfully told the aggrieved farmer that he might shoot at the trespassers if he was careful not to hit any of them.

Partridges also bother the China man. Last year they stripped the buds from about all the trees of an apple orchard of his. He was allowed to shoot at the birds, and did bag thirty of them; but they were too many for him. He estimates that they made him lose fifty barrels of apples, worth \$3.50 to \$4 a barrel.

Dark forebodings, gloomy as the old tune of "China," rise in Mr. SANFORD CLARK'S mind:

"What are we coming to in Maine? Already we are in about the condition that they are in Ireland, where a rabbit is worth more than a man's life. Unless our people rise and put a stop to this outrageous condition of affairs, farming will soon become a dead industry in Maine and city sportsmen will reign supreme."

"Again, look at that log cabin that is to represent us at St. Louis. But very few of our people ever saw a log cabin. It is simply to represent our State as a game preserve. In the old days of the Norman conquest in England the conquerors frequently drove the natives from their homes in order to turn them into game preserves. They killed men to make room for deer. We have started

in the same direction here, and we are travelling that road very fast. Our game laws will not stop here."

The deer or farming must "go." That is what Mr. CLARK and a number of grangers believe, and they have decided that the game laws must "go." If the farmers are united, these laws will be repealed or altered. Probably more liberal provisions for damages done by game would be satisfactory to the farmers; and the sportsmen would not be in a position to object. The license fee can be raised, if necessary.

It is difficult not to agree with Farmer CLARK that a log cabin as the representative of St. Louis of Maine architecture and civilization is absurd.

## "Co-Eds" and Love Stories.

The age of fable still exists in the sacred closes of the Chicago University and the Northwestern University. Myths and myth-makers abound there; and it is said to detect at times among the Western brethren a purpose to bite the credulity of the ingenious East. Still, it is constitutional comity to give full faith and credit to esteemed Chicago contemporaries; and there is no need of rouse upon the face of their new story of the marvels of the "co-ed" world at Northwestern. If that tale be true, the young women editors of the college periodicals have outdone their conservative but less tattered colleagues, and tabloid stories.

The girls have highly resolved that no sentimental rubbish shall litter up their magazine. They have no patience with the eternal strumming of the love-lorn lyre. What does COUPID with his bow and arrows in these days of high explosives? "This cruel love is sorrow in all lands," and a weariness in short stories. Other and higher themes invite the pen of the "co-ed." Municipal reform, domestic and culinary art, star-eyed science, the all-enfolding arms of sociology—a whole twentieth century practical universe is to be seriously regarded by those young contributors. "The men," they say scornfully, "are such sentimentalists."

We look hopefully for new discoveries, new methods and motives, improved machinery, the discarding of the old creaking wheels of the love-motive. The glad new year "gives the glad hand" to these wise young maidens, these founders of a literary or scientific epoch. In short, love is "played out." Be businesslike, be scientific, be solemn; and throw away the toys of fancy. Still, in the way of psychology, some little study of the otherwise banished topic may be permitted in those earnest pages. No more but so.

Yet, drive out Nature with a blue pencil, and she will come back again. The young women of Northwestern may set up their No Trespassing boards and make their magazine a joy to EDWARD ATKINSON, but all the ostentatious preparation and defence against sentimental onslaught shows a pleasing dread rather than aversion. However strict the regulations of that editorial council,

"Ah, who shall keep them from overspilling That sweet, forbidden, forgotten lore?"

These solemn renunciations make the cynical look for an early crop of engagement rings.

The expenditures of the United States for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1903, are thus tabulated by the Secretary of the Treasury:

Civil and miscellaneous	\$124,944,280.74
War	118,919,520.15
Navy	82,018,044.18
Post Office	12,285,180.00
Pensions	138,425,646.07
Interest	28,569,348.92
Postal Service	134,224,443.28
Total	\$606,323,420.26

The payments for pensions continue to be the greatest single expense of the Government. Pensions cost about fifty-five millions more than the army, about twenty millions more than the navy, about as much as the postal service, after adding the deficiency in postal revenue to the \$134,000,000.

Nobody can say truly that the United States is not generous to the men who fight for it.

The usual measure of the success of an "international exhibition" is the number of foreign Governmental contributions. The Omaha and the New Orleans expositions were distinctively national. The Charleston Exposition included only the West Indies, outside of the United States. The Buffalo Exposition was "Pan-American" and limited to the exhibits of North, South and Central America. There has been no international exposition in this country since that in Chicago in 1893 when the St. Louis exposition opens in 1904. This is how the appropriations already made for foreign nations compare with those of 1903: Germany, Chicago \$600,000, St. Louis \$1,000,000; France, Chicago \$730,000, St. Louis \$1,000,000; England, Chicago \$280,000, St. Louis \$200,000; Russia, Chicago \$31,000, St. Louis \$300,000; Mexico, Chicago \$50,000, St. Louis \$250,000; Belgium, Chicago \$58,000, St. Louis \$100,000; Italy, Chicago \$50,000, St. Louis \$80,000; Ceylon, Chicago \$65,000, St. Louis \$80,000; Cuba, Chicago \$25,000, St. Louis \$80,000; and Peru, Chicago \$40,000, St. Louis \$50,000.

The countries which have not yet definitely announced the appropriation for their exhibits are Denmark, Holland, Greece, Switzerland and Turkey. It is observable that among European nations Russia shows a large increase. Japan, Brazil, Austria-Hungary, Canada and Chile make the same appropriations as a decade ago. Japan has appropriated \$600,000, Brazil \$400,000, China \$400,000, India \$105,000 and Canada \$106,000.

## A Question in Legal Ethics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—A young writer of my acquaintance, who is also a lawyer, had a short story published in a recent number of the *Sun*. The story dealt with a lawyer who had been a member of the bar of a California State, who had procured his admission to the bar of another State by a letter stating that the Westerners had read the story, were anxious to form a corporation of some magnitude, and preferred to organize in a State which was liberal to corporations. They requested of the author the name of the State to which they wished to be admitted. The author says that he replied that the State was New Jersey, and mentioned the lumbermen to himself as the individual who was best qualified to do the incorporating of a projected corporation. He is now puzzled to know whether he has overstepped the bounds of professional ethics, and whether he is an attorney who advertised, as did his hero in the story. He says that he expects a retainer in a day or two. Does he owe the magazine reader advertising rates at \$500 a page? If he does, he's bankrupt.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. LATHAM.

## TARIFF INCREASE IN CUBA.

HAVANA, Dec. 23.—News telegrams received in Havana indicate a disposition in some quarters of the United States to criticize Cuba's proposed revision of her tariff rates and to reflect upon her good faith in doing so at this particular time.

Cuba's right to change the rates in her tariff, in part or in whole, by increase or by decrease, is in no way modified by the establishment of reciprocal trade relations with the United States. Any assumption of the United States of the recently ratified treaty Cuba is either legally or morally bound to continue her present rates is entirely without warrant. The only point upon which the United States can stand in the matter is that in any changes which may be made American products shall enjoy the advantage specified by the treaty. Cuba is no more bound to maintain her present rates than are the United States to continue their present rates. In Cuba, as in the United States, tariffs and tariff rates are matters of national policy, subject to change at any time. She has every right to regulate her tariff to suit herself, subject only, during the next five years, to the conditions of the treaty recently executed.

The ground upon which the United States rested in their agreement upon a reciprocity treaty with Cuba was not one of simple charity to a needy neighbor. While in the beginning of the campaign for tariff concessions, two years ago, much was said of "moral obligation" to Cuba, that issue faded, and it can hardly be said that the final decision by the American Congress was very greatly affected by any form of altruism, or that any ethical consideration was an important factor in the determination of the question. The matter resolved itself into a distinctly commercial proposition, and the United States stood for a well defined commercial equivalent, so far as such could be arranged in advance on a basis of trade probabilities.

In the adjustment of the preferential in the Cuban rates, the United States, through their agent and representative in Cuba, Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, who was sent to Havana for the special purpose, virtually dictated their own terms. Gen. Bliss, for the American Government, contended that a 20 per cent. reduction in the average tariff was not the equivalent of a 20 per cent. reduction in the American high average tariff. Therefore, schedules were prepared providing for entry into Cuba of American products at varying rates of 25, 30 and 40 per cent. reduction, according to a specified classification.

The special object of the United States in making the treaty with Cuba was to obtain and hold a larger share of Cuban trade than that previously held. They want 90 per cent. of that trade, instead of only a little more than 40 per cent. On whatever portion of that additional trade the United States may obtain, as well as on the duties on the rest, there will be a loss to Cuba's now too ample national revenue. The more trade taken by the United States from those who now hold it, the greater will be the Cuban loss of revenue. It is at least possible that Cuba's income may be affected to the extent of two or three millions of dollars. This Cuba cannot afford. Her possible compensation for such a reduction lies in two directions only, without a complete change in her entire fiscal system. One of these is a large increase in importation; the other an increase in tariff rates on the present volume of imports.

There is little probability of any marked increase in imports under present circumstances. That could be effected only by a measure of prosperity which would increase her purchasing power, and that is not at all likely to be perceptibly influenced by the operation of the reciprocity treaty. Had the United States assured Cuba of a much more liberal preferential rate on her sugar, capital would have been attracted to the industry by the promise of increased profits, and there would have been attracted by the certainty of paid employment, and the purchasing power of the island would have been materially increased. As the matter stands, at present sugar prices in the American market, the 20 per cent. preferential offers little inducement to investors in the Cuban industry, and no important extension of that industry seems at all probable.

Notwithstanding the hopes expressed by some, largely those of the political element, many men of sound business judgment see little reason to anticipate any very marked increase in the total of Cuba's purchases as a result of reciprocity with the United States upon a basis of a 20 per cent. advantage in the American tariff rates over at present prices. A loss of revenue, large or small, according to the volume of trade with the United States, seems inevitable. The alternative for the obtaining of necessary revenue lies in a general increase in tariff rates.

The proposal to effect such an increase is not, as some have asserted, a breach of faith because of its appearance at this particular juncture. The matter has been under general consideration here for many months, and no secrecy whatever has attended it. It has frequently been commented on in the Cuban press, has been discussed in Cuban official circles, and it is much more than probable that the files of the State Department in Washington hold letters from Minister Squiers in which reference, at least, is made to the matter.

An increase in the Cuban tariff has been advocated with the idea of making the customs revenue a basis for the proposed national loan, and it has been advocated for the purpose of offsetting an increase in the general revenue so that larger sums would be available for general purposes. It might almost be said that there has been no time since the establishment of the Cuban Republic when an increase in tariff rates has not been more or less actively under consideration.

Cuba's present average rate is low, about 22 per cent. on total importation. That of the United States is about 28 per cent. But this is hardly a fair basis of comparison, from the fact of essential differences in the requirements of the two countries, and because of the additional fact that 44 per cent. of the total American imports are duty free, thus reducing the average on dutiable goods, while Cuba's free entries are only about 25 per cent. of her total. Cuba's rate is low, and it is to her advantage to have it as low as possible on the major portion of her imports. Few of her products either call for or are open to protection, but unless there is effected a complete change in her present fiscal system, a tariff which will provide an adequate revenue is imperative if the United States continue to require that she spend 20 to 25 per cent. of her income for sanitation, and expect her to use another 20 per cent. for school purposes. Unless she can count with assurance, as she certainly cannot at present, upon an important increase in imports, no other course seems open except an increase in tariff by which there may be offset the tariff reduction granted to the United States.

Cuba's political experience is by no means free from dilemmas. Thus far her success in administration is in large measure due to the maintenance of what may be called a passive attitude. In a way, she has been

drifting through a period of adjustment, and there can be no doubt that under the circumstances, it has been the wisest possible policy. But the time has come when a policy of "masterly inactivity" will be no longer the course of wisdom. She must seize opportunities and make other opportunities. There is no reason whatever to expect any retrogression or decadence in her economic progress. But, on the other hand, there is little encouragement to look for any material advance beyond the point now attained, until by reason of a greater prospective profit in sugar growing, tobacco raising and fruit culture, capital is brought here in abundance and the labor supply is very materially augmented.

The labor supply is doubtless the most serious problem with which Cuba is now confronted. Her present population is producing not far from its maximum possibility. That fact has its bearing upon the question of purchasing power. Without an increase in the number of purchasers, Cuba sees little probability of an increase in her total of purchases. Needing more laborers as she does, it would be entirely wise for her to repeal the immigration law which was issued by Gen. Wood a few hours before he left the island, on May 20, 1902, and draught a new law to encourage the influx of a desirable element while duly barring out the undesirable.

Governmentally, a more aggressive course is now little short of a necessity. Hitherto Cuban administration has been not much more than a routine process of receiving the revenue which came from conditions little or not at all influenced by official action, and of expending the revenue with due wisdom and economy. It is now time that the Cuban Government should take some active steps toward the establishment of conditions which would stimulate industrial commerce and industry. A more aggressive activity for the Cuban administration is in order. It has dallied with the question of the national loan, and the delay has led to a measure of discontent and unrest. If the Cuban Government does not speedily bestir itself, it stands a strong chance of being aroused in a fashion which will be at least unpleasant. It is now dallying with the question of improving the national credit by keeping faith with the holders of its '00 bonds by paying the long overdue interest on an acknowledged obligation.

Cuba's present serious mistake, an error which is reacting upon her most important interests, lies in a drifting, uncertain and fluctuating policy regarding matters of almost vital national importance. If she deems it wise or necessary to effect a horizontal increase in her tariff, or to increase some items and decrease others, she has every right and all power so to do. The United States Government has no justifiable ground of complaint, and it is not to be considered as injurious to trade conditions. Those conditions being established, trade will adjust itself to them, and the merchants and manufacturers of the United States will be protected in the advantage given to them under the treaty.

Cuba's greatest need to-day is a realization that she is no longer a child, and that her functions as a self-governing nation are very much in need of active exercise.

## Our Farmers and the Lodge Bill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: One phase of the immigration restriction policy which has been practically ignored by Senator Lodge and his associates, who are urging further legislation for the purpose of keeping foreigners out of this country is the probable effect of such legislation on our agricultural interests.

The competition of the farm products of Canada, the Argentine Republic and other countries is already felt by our farmers. If new restriction laws in regard to immigration are enacted, the result will be to direct the stream of emigrants to those countries, with the result of creating additional competition in these products.

If our farmers do not object to the expense of their own efforts to influence against the Lodge bill and any similar measure.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

## The End of the Collins Transatlantic Line.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In your issue of Dec. 24 I note that a correspondent disputes the correctness of a statement of *The Sun* that the Collins Line steamer *Adriatic* was the best and most comfortable steamer sailing from New York in the transatlantic trade.

Of my own knowledge I say that the statement of *The Sun* was correct.

Further, when your correspondent undertakes to criticize the model of the *Adriatic* by declaring that it was not so comfortable as the *Adriatic*, and did not therefore compare with the *Adriatic* of the same line, he is as far astray from the actual fact as he can possibly be.

The truth is the *Adriatic* was as beautiful a ship as is to be found on the ocean. She was built on the East River by George Steers, the famous builder of our cup-winner *America*, and her lines were as nearly perfect as it is possible for human skill to attain. In proof of this I will simply state that although she was of 6,000 tons—a very large steamer for her day—she was able to make a round trip to New York in less than a week, and that the resistance of her hull when passing through the water at high speed, that is, what is termed "the slip," which means the difference between the speed that her hull traveled as compared with the speed her wheels traveled when in motion, showed a less percentage of loss in the hull than that of any other ship of her class. And further, of the same day, which was one of the fleetest boats that ever plied the Hudson.

The reason of the *Adriatic's* failure was because the Society of Iron Works of this city, that built her engine, were unable to make the valve gear to her immense oscillating cylinders work perfectly. Owing to the necessity of making continued repairs many parts of her engine cost more than would have been made of solid silver.

She ran in the line for several months, and made the run between New York and Liverpool inside of nine days, although she was said to have lost more than a day's time each trip in detention because of her faulty valve gear. If measured as the time required to make a round trip, she was the fastest of her class, and this was about fifty years ago.

The gigantic steamers of the present are simply driven through the water by the power of their immense engines.

This magnificent steamer now lies a derelict, dismantled hull on beach on the coast of Africa, and is used as a storehouse.

With the loss of the *Pacific*, and that, too, of the splendid *Arctic*, with Mr. Collins's wife and daughter on board, and the failure of the *Adriatic*, combined with the withholding of further mail subsidy by Congress, the Collins Line dropped out of existence, and Mr. Collins died soon after, heartbroken and poor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

## A Strict Grammarian.

From the *Washington Star*.

"You think a great deal of your husband, don't you?" said the visiting relative.

"You have the wrong preparation," answered Mr. Meekins's wife, with the cold tones of the superior woman. "I think for him."

## Is the Claim the Best of Bivalves?

From the *Providence Journal*.

The oyster at its best is inferior as a toothsome delicacy to the succulent clam.

## A Pipe Reverie.

I do not praise the dear old pipe. It does not warm my heart. It never yet played to me a true companion's part.

It does not love to sit with it. When gence nor easter's crack; It calls no pleasant memories From Time's long travelled track.

The pipe itself may be all right, I suppose. I don't complain a bit. I could I persuade the janitor To send some steam through it. MCLANDRUM WILSON.

## THE ENEMY OF ST. LOUIS.

Further Scourious Remarks by Johnson of Birmingham, Thank Heaven!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I hope not to be held responsible for the scurrilous and lamentable effect produced upon your correspondent "H. L." by my remarks concerning St. Louis. I stand by the facts presented, but as for the peculiar mental disturbance evoked in "H. L." that is a matter that could not have been foreseen.

I am not surprised that some St. Louis papers disagree with me